

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	EAS.28
Historic Name:	Swift, Nathaniel Gustavus F. House
Common Name:	Eastham Historical Society Museum House
Address:	2375 State Hwy
City/Town:	Eastham
Village/Neighborhood:	Eastham Center
Local No:	15-072
Year Constructed:	
Architect(s):	
Architectural Style(s):	Colonial
Use(s):	Abandoned or Vacant; Agricultural; Museum; Single Family Dwelling House
Significance:	Agriculture; Architecture
Area(s):	EAS.B: Eastham Center Historic District
Designation(s):	Nat'l Register District (5/12/1999)
Building Materials(s):	Roof: Cedar Shingle Wall: Wood Shingle; Wood Foundation: Brick



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Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125
www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc

This file was accessed on:

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FORM B - BUILDING

Massachusetts Historical Commission
Massachusetts Archives Building
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Assessor's
Number

15/072

USGS Quad

Orleans

Area(s)

Form Number

28

Town

Eastham

(neighborhood or village)

2375 State Highway

Common Name

Swift-Daley House

Present

Residential

Original

"

Construction

Mid 18th Century

See Bibliography*

Form

"Full Cape"

Side-gable, Center-chimney,
entry, Vernacular Dwelling.

Architect/Builder

Exterior Material:

Foundation

Brick

Wall/Trim

Shingles

Roof

Cedar Shakes

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures
Free-standing shed; Free-standing
shed/garage (tool museum).

Major Alterations (with dates) Outbuildings
lost; Kitchen ells and pantry added (Early
20th C.; see Architectural Description)

Condition

Good

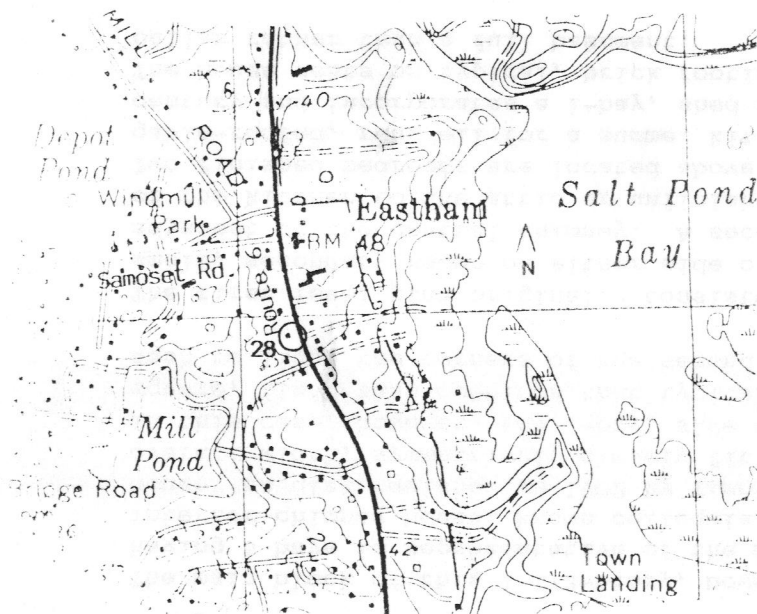
Moved ☒ no ☐ yes Date

Acreage

.93 acres

Setting Located in a densely-settled,
mixed-use, but largely residential section
of Route 6, the major, Cape Cod,
inter-community thoroughfare, the former
county road and a continuation of the
original Old King's Highway.

here. Indicate North.



Recorded by: Dianne L. Siergiej

Organization: Commonweal Collaborative

Date: May 1995

RECEIVED

SEP 20 1995

MASS. HIST. COMM.

BUILDING FORM

2375 State Highway

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION X See continuation sheet.

Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.

The main block of this 1 1/2-story, bowed, gable-roofed, rectangular dwelling, having 5 bays is representative of the most common regional variation of the interior chimney house, known colloquially as the "full cape" or "double house" as distinguished in 1802 by Timothy Dwight. Low studding, compact overall width, symmetrical, closely fit openings are the exterior hallmarks. In this case, however, the 2-bay, side elevations lack the additional small, square, fixed sash openings that typically side the centrally located, double sash to light the corners of the second story.

The first level plan originally consisted of three rooms, each with fireplace, small, secondary rooms on either side of the kitchen and a stair lobby adjacent to the central chimney. A secondary stair leads from the north side of the kitchen to the attic or unfinished portion of the upper level. Two finished bedrooms are located above the hall and parlor. A 1 1/2-story, gable-roofed, rear ell for a summer kitchen was rebuilt in the twentieth-century and incorporates a 1-bay, shed roofed projection that houses a pantry. The house rests on typical, brick footings or foundation with a circular cellar rather than a full basement.

As is common, there is little exterior ornament or finish, but significantly here there is some elaboration of the main entry in the addition of very slender pilasters and a dentiled lintel. The paneled, wooden door has four transom lights. Otherwise detail is limited to cap moldings added to the window surrounds on the main block (plain trim is utilized on the rear ell), end boards, boxed cornice and a narrow, but molded frieze on the facade.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE X See continuation sheet.

Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.

Research by the Eastham Historical Society dates this property to 1741 and attributes it to Joshua Knowles. According to local historian, Howard Quinn, Knowles family property extended in the area from Town Cove to Salt Pond. A number of Knowles houses are located along Route 6 (see 1150 State Highway, Form No. 16, and 1220 State Highway, Form No. 17). No specific biographical information about Joshua Knowles, however, was located in secondary sources. The first deeds cited in the Eastham Historical Society file are transfers in 1828 to Joshua Knowles of 3 2/3 acres from Betsey Knowles and 6 acres from the estate of Freeman Knowles.

In the middle of the nineteenth century, this property, including about 16 acres of land, was owned for a period by Nathaniel and Gustavus Swift (Bk 72: Pg. 285, October 26, 1859, Joshua Knowles of Eastham to Nathaniel and Gustavus Swift of West Sandwich; Bk 76: Pg. 243, December 29, 1860, Gustavus Swift to Nathaniel Swift; Bk 82: Pg. 159, March 30, 1863, Nathaniel Swift to

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES X See continuation sheet.

X Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places;
If checked, see attached National Register Criteria Statement form.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION (continued)

Significant interior details includes wide floor boards, a 30" wide section of paneling above the fireplace, hand-planed planking in the stairway, wainscoting and plaster of ground clamshells and sand.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE (continued)

Lewis Lombard of Eastham). The Swift brothers owned a slaughter house which employed several local men. Pigs brought in by train which at the time reached only as far as Barnstable had to be driven the rest of the way up the roads. Buying trips were also made to local farmers to purchase cattle which also had to be driven to the slaughter house.

Gustavus Franklin Swift (b. West Sandwich [now Sagamore], June 24, 1839; d. Chicago, Ill., March 29, 1903) and Nathaniel Swift were two of twelve children of William and Sally Sears (Crowell) Swift. His paternal ancestry included William Swift (or Swyft) who settled at Sandwich on Cape Cod in 1637. From his mother he was descended from Elder William Brewster of the *Mayflower*. After attending common school, he went to work with his brother, the village butcher.

Two years later, Gustavus Swift made his first independent venture in buying and slaughtering a heifer then peddling the dressed meat door to door. By age twenty, Gustavus Swift made weekly trips to the cattle market in Brighton to purchase and butcher a steer then peddle the meat on the Cape within the week before the next trip to market. At Eastham, Gustavus Swift opened his first butcher shop in 1859-60. He soon turned it over to his brother to initiate another in Barnstable and others in Clinton and Freetown. From these centers, he sent out daily wagons over regular routes servicing substantial territory. At the same time, he developed a business as a cattle dealer. He became a partner of Boston meat dealer, James A. Hathaway, acting as buyer. Following the cattle market westward toward the source of supply, Gustavus Swift successively established headquarters at Albany, Buffalo and in 1875 in Chicago.

At that time, cattle were still shipped live for local slaughter. Cost of feeding in transit, loss of conditioning due to overcrowding and the expense of freighting the entire animal convinced Swift of the economy of shipping only dressed meat. He sent his first carload to Boston in 1877. Hathaway withdrew from the enterprise, but Swift persisted. He hired an engineer who devised the first successful refrigerator car that allowed for summer shipment of dressed beef and revolutionized the industry. Utilizing his knowledge of the New England beef trade, he confronted the opposition of the railroads which enjoyed the excessive revenue from carrying livestock and overcame the fear of local butchers. Swift made partnerships with the butchers and negotiated transport with the Grand Trunk Railroad which had carried little livestock and maintained no stockyards. Swift was also a pioneer in demanding cleanliness in his packing house to reduce spoilage and in developing by-products from previous waste (ie. glue, soap, fertilizer, oleomargarine and pharmaceuticals. In 1885, he incorporated as Swift &

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE (continued)

Company with capital of \$300,000. Less than 2 years later, the firm was capitalized at \$3 million and before his death at \$25 million.

Gustavus Swift married Ann Maria Higgins, daughter of Joshua and Maria Cobb Higgins.

Lewis Lombard who purchased the property from Nathaniel Swift was a mariner. Involved in fishing and coasting, he made his living on the sea between 1830 and 1886 and was for several years a shipmaster. Lewis Lombard (b. Wellfleet, 1819), the son of Caleb and Abigail Higgins Lombard and grandson of Oliver Lombard, moved to Eastham in 1862. He married Lucinda C. Collins, daughter of Michael and Dorcas (Cobb) Collins, granddaughter of Michael and Elizabeth (Atkins) Collins and great-granddaughter of Benjamin Collins. They had two sons: Oliver C. Lombard and James H. Lombard.

Snow Y. Higgins, listed as a mariner on the deed, bought this holding from Lewis Lombard in 1876 (Bk. 129; Pg. 390). At that time, the property included the house, barn and several outbuildings including a wood house and carriage house. In the Eastham directory of 1901, he is listed as operating a poultry business, which was the noted occupation of several farmers on State Highway at the time. Asparagus and turnips were also raised.

The Higgins heirs sold the farm in 1918 to Stanley E. Horton of Newtonville (Bk. 365; Pg. 527). In 1939, the property, which had been unoccupied for a decade had become seriously deteriorated, was sold by Stanley Horton to Verena Daley whose family restored it. In 1974, a life estate was granted the Eastham Historical Society, but Verena Daley moved to New Hampshire in 1987. The Eastham Historical Society maintains the property as a museum.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES (continued)

Dictionary of American Biography, (New York: Charles Scribners Sons, 1964), p. 245.

Hales, John G. Map of the Town of Eastham, 1830.

*House file 2375 State Highway, Eastham Historical Society Archives.

Quinn, Howard. Transcript of Oral History Tape, Eastham Historical Society Archives.

Resident and Business Directory of Cape Cod, 1901.

Roger, Josiah, Knowles, Elijah and Kinsman, Simeon. Map of the Town of Eastham, 1794.

*Walker, George F. Atlas of Barnstable County. Boston: George F. Walker & Co., 1880.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

2375 State Highway
Eastham

Area Form No. 28

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES (continued)

_____. Atlas of Barnstable County. Boston Walker
Lithographer and Publishing Co., 1908.

*Wallings, Henry F. Map of Eastham. Boston: D. R. Smith Co., 1858.



Massachusetts Historical Commission
Massachusetts Archives Building
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Community: Eastham
Property Address: 2375 State Highway

Area Form No. 28

National Register of Historic Places Criteria Statement

Check all that apply:

- ☒ Individually eligible ☐ Eligible only in a historic district
☐ Contributing to a ☐ Potential historic district
potential historic district

Criteria: ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D

Criteria Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Statement of Significance by: Dianne L. Siergiej
The criteria that are checked in the above sections must be justified here.

The property at 2375 State Highway is significant on a local level with regard to the above-referenced criteria as one of the oldest and best preserved examples of the full Cape Cod house form (double house) in Eastham. It is also significant for its association with the Knowles family, one of the oldest in Eastham, with Nathaniel and Gustavus Swift who owned a local slaughter house, the latter moving on to found Swift & Co., and with subsequent owners Lewis Lombard and Snow Y. Higgins, local mariners all representative of the variety of often combined occupations that contributed to and were required by the local economy.

Original yellow form: Eligibility file _____
Copies: Inventory form ☒ _____
Town file(w/corresp.) _____
Macris _____
NR director _____

EAS.28

Community: Eastham

MHC OPINION: ELIGIBILITY FOR NATIONAL REGISTER

Date Received: 10/16/95

Date Due:

Date Reviewed: 12/6/95

Type: ☒ Individual

☐ District (Attach map indicating boundaries)

Name:

Inventory Form: EAS.28

Address: 2375 State Highway

Requested by: Eastham Historical Commission

Action: ☒ Honor ☐ ITC ☐ Grant ☐ R & C ☐ Other:

Agency:

Staff in charge of Review: AJ

INDIVIDUAL PROPERTIES

☐ Eligible
☐ Eligible, also in district
☐ Eligible only in district
☐ Ineligible
☒ More information needed

DISTRICTS

☐ Eligible
☐ Ineligible
☐ More information needed

CRITERIA: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D

LEVEL: ☐ Local ☐ State ☐ National

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE by Allen Johnson

The 5- x 2-bay, 1 1/2-story, center-chimney house at 2375 State Highway is a good local example of a full Cape. A pantry and rear kitchen ell were apparently added to the house or significantly altered in the early 20th century. More information about these additions/alterations is required in order for MHC to evaluate the property's eligibility.